



Fire Program Analysis Briefing Paper #4

May 2008

Topic: Agency Leadership Role in Fire Program Analysis (FPA)

Purpose: This fourth FPA briefing describes how Line Officers can actively support FPA implementation

Background

Fire Program Analysis (FPA) is an interagency fire planning and budgeting system developed in response to recommendations from the interagency Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy along with Congress and the Office of Management and Budget direction. Using FPA, fire managers can evaluate the effectiveness of different fire management funding strategies for preparedness and hazardous fuels, and communicate strategic trade-offs to Congress.

Key Points

FPA Impact	Line Officer Responsibilities
In FY 2009, FPA will begin to replace existing fire budget planning systems	<p>Provide oversight, coaching, and support to staff before and during FPA implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Integrate FPA into your agency by encouraging active participation in planning meetings and providing positive reinforcement about using FPA.✓ Understand the differences between your agency's legacy fire budget system and the new paradigm of FPA.
Federal, state, and local agencies within Fire Planning Units collaborate to develop investment alternatives.	<p>Facilitate interagency collaboration among Fire Planning Unit partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Resolve concerns in regard to developing alternatives collaboratively with partners.✓ Encourage participation by states, tribes, and local fire management agencies.✓ Explain how FPA is designed to include non-federal participant resources.
Investment alternatives support objectives from local land and fire management plans and follow national interagency planning guidance.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Collaborate with partners to provide direction for investment alternative development.✓ Understand the national interagency planning guidance.
Using FPA, Fire Planners develop and model different investment alternatives	Fire Planning Unit-level line officers:

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FPA Impact	Line Officer Responsibilities
and modify options to produce effective alternatives for national-level analysis and out-year budget development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Ensure local-level analysis is completed and submitted on time. ✓ Support employees working at the Fire Planning Unit level i.e. approve non-fire personnel to assist with FPA input (such as GIS specialists). ✓ Review and ensure that the alternatives are viable and meet land and fire management plan objectives for the Fire Planning Unit. ✓ Understand the implications of submitted alternatives. ✓ Brief regional/state office regarding submitted alternatives. <p>Regional/State-level line officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide support and oversight throughout the investment alternatives development process. ✓ Review Fire Planning Unit submissions from a geographic perspective for meeting interagency guidance and organization missions.

FPA Roll Out

FPA will test the system with seven prototype Fire Planning Units in June 2008. In July 2008, volunteer Fire Planning Units (“early-adopters”) will also “pressure test” the system for six weeks before all Fire Planning Units use the system to run analyses. FPA will develop an estimate of the workload for data input and analysis to share with line officers to help them plan for FPA implementation.

Conclusion

Implementing an interagency system of FPA’s scope and complexity requires Line Officers to initiate, support, manage, and oversee business and cultural changes within the participating agencies.

Line officers must have sufficient FPA knowledge to support successful implementation the system. To summarize, along with facilitating collaboration among interagency Fire Planning Unit partners, line officers should:

- Encourage participation by states, tribes, and local fire management agencies.
- Ensure timelines are met.
- Ensure investment alternatives implement objectives from land and fire management plans and agency missions.
- Collaborate with partners to review investment alternatives and analyses.
- Promote participation in the FPA process including feedback to the FPA Project to improve the system.
- Share current and accurate information about FPA.

The fifth in the series of briefs will give an overview of developing investment alternatives.